

## Claims

1. A method for assigning a slot cycle within a communication system, the method comprising the steps of:
  - 5       determining a first slot cycle for a first plurality of remote units;
  - determining a second slot cycle for a second plurality of remote units;
  - assigning the first slot cycle to the first plurality of remote units; and
  - assigning the second slot cycle to the second plurality of remote units.
- 10   2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining the first slot cycle for the first plurality of remote units comprises the step of determining the first slot cycle for a plurality of remote units operating in a first mode.
- 15   3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of determining the second slot cycle for the second plurality of remote units comprises the step of determining the second slot cycle for a plurality of remote units operating in a second mode.
- 20   4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of assigning the first slot cycle to the first plurality of remote units comprises the step of transmitting a first message over a paging channel, the first message comprising the first slot cycle.
- 25   5. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of broadcasting the second slot cycle to the second plurality of remote units comprises the step of transmitting a second message over the paging channel, the second message comprising the second slot cycle.
- 30   6. A method comprising the steps of:
  - determining a mode of operation;
  - receiving a first slot cycle;
  - receiving a second slot cycle; and
  - using the first slot cycle when operating in a first mode of operation otherwise using the second slot cycle when operating in a second mode of operation.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the step of determining the mode of operation comprises the step of determining a mode of operation taken from the group consisting of a dispatch mode of operation and a non-dispatch mode of operation.

5 8. The method of claim 6 wherein the step of using the first slot cycle when operating in a first mode of operation otherwise using the second slot cycle when operating in a second mode of operation, comprises the step of using the first slot cycle when operating in a dispatch only mode of operation, otherwise using the second slot cycle during a non-dispatch only mode of operation.

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9. The method of claim 6 wherein the step of using the first slot cycle when operating in a first mode of operation otherwise using the second slot cycle when operating in a second mode of operation further comprises the step of using both the first and the second slot cycles simultaneously when operating in both the first and the second mode.

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10. An apparatus comprising:

first transmission circuitry having as an input, a first slot cycle, the first transmission circuitry broadcasting the first slot cycle to a first plurality of remote units utilizing a first mode of operation; and

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second transmission circuitry having as an input, a second slot cycle, the second transmission circuitry broadcasting the second slot cycle to a second plurality of remote units utilizing a second mode of operation.

25 11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the first transmission circuitry is paging channel transmission circuitry.

12. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the second transmission circuitry is paging channel transmission circuitry.

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13. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the first plurality of remote units comprise remote units operating in a dispatch mode.

35 14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the second plurality of remote units comprise remote units operating in a non-dispatch mode.

15. An apparatus comprising:

a receiver receiving a first and a second slot cycle; and

logic circuitry coupled to the receiver, the logic circuitry determining a  
mode of operation and utilizes the first slot cycle when operating in a first mode  
of operation, otherwise utilizes the second slot cycle when operating in a second  
mode of operation.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the logic circuitry utilizes the first slot  
cycle when operating only in a dispatch mode, otherwise utilizes the second slot  
cycle when operating in a non-dispatch mode.

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